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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/778,475	02/07/2001	Lori P. Engle	55188USA9C.014	4701
32692	7590	11/06/2003	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY			HESS, BRUCE H	
PO BOX 33427			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			1774	14
DATE MAILED: 11/06/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/778,475 <i>eb4</i> Applicant(s) Engle et al.	Examiner Bruce Hess Group Art Unit 1774
	<i>—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—</i>	
Period for Reply		
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 		
Status		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8-4-02 (Amendment)		
<input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL .		
<input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.		
Disposition of Claims		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) 30-42 is/are pending in the application.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) 30-37 is/are allowed.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) 38, 39, 41 and 42 is/are rejected.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) 40 is/are objected to.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement		
Application Papers		
<input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is <input type="checkbox"/> approved <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved.		
<input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner		
<input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.		
<input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).		
<input type="checkbox"/> All <input type="checkbox"/> Some* <input type="checkbox"/> None of the:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))		
*Certified copies not received: _____		
Attachment(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary, PTO-413		
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152		
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
Office Action Summary		

1. Claims 30-37 are allowed.
2. Claim 40 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
3. Claims 38, 39, 41 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to Shaw/Klein et al. (U.S.P. 6,036,808) in view of either of the patents to Engle et al. (W00/73082 and WO 00/73083)

The teachings of Shaw/Klein et al. are discussed in paragraph 6 of paper No.12. Plastic supports are generically disclosed by Shaw/Klein et al. (see column 3, line 1 et seq.) The Engle et al patents teach the advantages of micro-embossing the same plastic supports to improve inkjet ink drying times, improve abrasion resistance after inkjet imaging and prevent visual defects such as ink beading or spreading. Consequently, it would have been an obvious expedient to one of ordinary skill in this art to micro-emboss the support of Shaw/Kein et al. in order to improve ink drying time and abrasion resistance after printing and prevent visual defects.

The patents to Shaw/Klein et al. and Engle et al. are already of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Bruce Hess at telephone number (703) 308-2402.



B. Hess/lap

November 3, 2003

BRUCE H. HESS
PRIMARY EXAMINER